

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

**Claim 1. (currently amended)** A method for quantitatively determining hydrogen sulfide or sulfide ions~~[[,]]~~ which comprises (a) adding to a sample containing hydrogen sulfide or sulfide ions, (i) metal ions or a compound which liberates said metal ions and (ii) a metal indicator which reacts with the metal ions and ~~resultingly~~ resultantly undergoes a color development, wherein the color development ~~[[is]]~~ being accelerated or inhibited by the hydrogen sulfide or sulfide ions~~[[;]]~~, wherein complexes are formed by the reaction of the metal ions and the metal indicator, and (c) measuring the degree of color development of the metal indicator by determining the amount of the formed complexes and subtracting from said amount the amount of formed complexes when the metal ions are reacted with the metal indicator when no hydrogen sulfide or sulfide ions are

present, whereby a decreased amount of the formed complexes indicates an inhibition of color development and corresponds to the amount of the hydrogen sulfide or sulfide ions present in the sample, or an increased amount of formed complexes indicates an acceleration of color development and corresponds to the amount of the hydrogen sulfide or sulfide ions present in the sample.

**Claim 2. (currently amended)** The method according to Claim 1, wherein the color development is inhibited and the metal ions are zinc ions or the color development is accelerated and the metal ions are iron ions.

**Claim 3. (original)** The method according to Claim 1, wherein the metal indicator is a pyridylazo compound or a nitrosoaminophenol compound.

**Claim 4. (currently amended)** A method for quantitatively determining a specific substance[[,]] which comprises (a) adding to a sample containing a specific substance, (i) a component which acts on the specific substance so that the specific

substance forms hydrogen sulfide or sulfide ions, (ii) metal ions or a compound which liberates said metal ions, and (iii) a metal indicator which reacts with the metal ions and ~~resultingly~~ resultantly undergoes a color development, wherein the color development [[is]] being accelerated or inhibited by the hydrogen sulfide or sulfide ions[[:]], wherein complexes are formed by the reaction of the metal ions and the metal indicator, and (c) measuring the degree of color development of the metal indicator by determining the amount of the formed complexes and subtracting from said amount the amount of formed complexes when the metal ions are reacted with the metal indicator when no hydrogen sulfide or sulfide ions are present, whereby a decreased amount of the formed complexes indicates an inhibition of color development and corresponds to the amount of the hydrogen sulfide or sulfide ions present in the sample, or an increased amount of the formed complexes indicates an acceleration of color development and corresponds to the amount of the hydrogen sulfide or sulfide ions present in the sample.

**Claim 5. (currently amended)** The method according to Claim 4, wherein the color development is inhibited and the metal ions are zinc ions or the color development is accelerated and the metal ions are iron ions.

**Claim 6. (original)** The method of Claim 4, wherein the metal indicator is a pyridylazo compound or a nitrosoaminophenol compound.

**Claim 7. (original)** The method of Claim 4, wherein the specific substance is homocysteine, and the component which acts on the specific substance so that the specific substance forms hydrogen sulfide or sulfide ions, is an enzyme (E1) which acts on the homocysteine so that the homocysteine forms hydrogen sulfide.

**Claim 8. (original)** The method according to Claim 7, wherein the enzyme (E1) is a substance which catalyzes a substitution reaction to the homocysteine in the presence of a thiol compound.

**Claim 9. (original)** The method according to Claim 8, wherein the enzyme (E1) is O-acetylhomoserine-lyase.

**Claim 10. (currently amended)** The method according to Claim 8, wherein the thiol compound is at least one compound selected from the group consisting of methane thiol, 2-mercaptoethanol, dithiothreitol, thioglycerol and cysteamine.

**Claim 11. (original)** The method according to Claim 4, wherein the specific substance is cysteine, and the component which acts on the specific substance so that the specific substance forms hydrogen sulfide or sulfide ions, is an enzyme (E2) which acts on the cysteine so that the cysteine forms hydrogen sulfide.

**Claim 12. (original)** The method according to Claim 11, wherein the enzyme (E2) is a substance which catalyzes a substitution reaction to the cysteine in the presence of a thiol compound.

**Claim 13. (original)** The method according to Claim 12, wherein the enzyme (E2) is 0-acetylserine-lyase.

**Claim 14. (currently amended)** The method according to Claim 12, wherein the thiol compound is at least one compound selected from the group consisting of methane thiol, 2-mercaptoethanol, dithiothreitol, thioglycerol and cysteamine.

**Claim 15. (previously presented)** The method according to Claim 1, wherein the metal indicator is a pyridylazo compound that is selected from the group consisting of 2-(5-bromo-2-pyridylazo)-5-(N-n-propyl-N-(3-sulfopropyl)amino]phenol sodium salt and 2-(5-nitro-2-pyridylazo)-5-(N-n-propyl-N-(3-sulfopropyl)amino]phenol sodium salt.

**Claim 16. (previously presented)** The method according to Claim 1, wherein the metal indicator is a nitrosoaminophenol compound that is selected from the group consisting of 2-nitroso-5-[N-n-propyl-N-(3-sulfopropyl)amino]phenol and 2-nitroso-5-[N-ethyl-N-(3-sulfopropyl)amino]phenol.

**Claim 17. (currently amended)** The method according to Claim 1, wherein the color development is inhibited and the metal ions are zinc ions; and the metal indicator is a pyridylazo compound.

**Claim 18. (currently amended)** The method according to Claim 1, wherein the color development is accelerated and the metal ions are iron ions; and the metal indicator is a pyridylazo compound.

**Claim 19. (currently amended)** The method according to Claim 1, wherein the color development is accelerated and the metal ions are iron ions; and the metal indicator is a nitrosoaminophenol compound.

**Claim 20. (new)** The method according to Claim 1, wherein the color development is accelerated and the metal ions are iron (II) ions or iron (III) ions.